

Ad Hoc Committee on Naming of Streets and Building  
May 2, 2012

1. Call to Order

Chair Bill Ryan called the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Naming of Streets and Buildings to order at 5:05 p.m. in Room B of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

Present: Mr. Paulhus, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Schaefer

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2012 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Opportunity for the Public to Speak

Rudy Favretti, Middle Turnpike, suggested the original name of Village Street be considered as the name conjures up the idea of a village which was the original intent of the concept presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Favretti quoted a famous planner who advocated not using the name of a person for a main thoroughfare but to reserve those names for secondary streets. He suggested using a descriptive name or a name of historical importance for some of the locations.

Macon Toledano, Leyland Alliance, stated the original idea was to name the main street in the project to reflect or define the experience of the place – the civic nature and prominence of the local street. The planners used the historical context of a New England village off the main thoroughfare (Storrs Road) which runs through the Town.

By consensus the members agreed to move Item 5, Discussion with Roberta Smith, Town Historian, as the next item of discussion.

3. Continuation of Discussion on Qualification Criteria

Members agreed to add an additional criterion, limiting each person to having only one public space named after them, to the list already established.

4. Discuss and Decide on Number of Streets to be Named

Members agreed to consider naming the following areas currently referred to as the Town Square, Village Street, South Eagleville Road Extension, Bolton Road Extension, the Intermodal Transportation Center and the road behind this facility.

5. Discussion with Roberta Smith, Town Historian

Ms. Smith urged the Committee to consider naming streets and areas after historical events and people too often forgotten. Ms. Smith suggested John Royce, one of Mansfield's earliest settlers, be considered. Mr. Royce was a surveyor whose son owned much of the land around Dog Lane. She will provide information on Mr. Royce to the Committee.

Mr. Ryan thanked Ms. Smith for her contribution to the discussion.

6. Review of Candidates Received to Date

Members briefly reviewed the names submitted by members of the public. Royce Square was suggested as a possible name for the Town Green area.

The name of Charles Emory Smith, who served as Postmaster General and Ambassador to Russia, was suggested as a name for the current South Eagleville Road Extension. Mr. Favretti will provide information on Mr. Smith to the Committee.

Mr. Schaefer, noting the Town currently has no recognition of the service of Wilbur Cross to the Town and State, suggested Cross Street as a possible name for the Bolton Road Extension.

Members discussed naming the main road through the project Village Street.

7. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

8. Set Next Meeting Date and Time

The Committee agreed to set the next meeting for May 16, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

9. Opportunity for the Public to Speak

Macon Toledano again spoke in favor of using Village Street as a way of creating a civic center.

Cynthia van Zelm, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Director, spoke in support of the intermodal center being named after Gary Zimmer and Dennison Nash as they were both very interested in alternative transportation.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stanton  
Town Clerk